

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

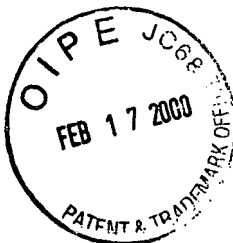
In re Application of:

Marc ALAIA et al.

Application No.: 09/252,790

Filed: February 19, 1999

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
CONTROLLING ELECTRONIC  
AUCTIONS



Group Art Unit: 2761

Examiner: Patel

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2000  
GROUP 2700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please delete claims 9-88.

Please add new claims 89-104 as follows:

--89. A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to conduct a business-to-business online auction for custom industrial products or materials between a buyer and a plurality of potential sellers, said computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said computer readable program code means comprising: